

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 03584 161501Z

44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SAB-01 SSO-00 ACDA-10

IO-10 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EUR-12

SCCT-01 /104 W

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P R 131210Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4573

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 3584

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV ADDED AS INFO ADDEE)

GENEVA FOR DEP ASST SEC SAUNDERS - MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, US, XF, EG, PLO

SUBJECT: SYRIAN REACTION TO SINAI AGREEMENT - SEPTEMBER 13

1. SEPTEMBER 13 AL-THAWRAH DESCRIBED RESULTS OF LONDON IPU CONFERENCE AS ISRAELI DEFEAT AND PALESTINIAN VICTORY. DAMASCUS RADIO ADDED THAT IT MARKED VICTORY FOR SYRIA'S "PRINCIPLED POLICY REJECTING SEPARATE AND PARTIAL SETTLEMENTS."

2. WEEKLY TELEVISION NEWS ROUNDUP "WEEK TO WEEK" SEPTEMBER 12 REVIEWED SUPPORT FOR SYRIAN OPPOSITION TO AGREEMENT EXPRESSED BY SYRIAN AND NON-SYRIAN ARAB ORGANIZATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS, AND THEN QUOTED UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 DAMASC 03584 161501Z

STAND ATTRIBUTED TO ASAD BY LATEST ISSUE OF "NEWSWEEK."

PROGRAM ALSO INCLUDED FILM CLIP OF GENEVA SIGNING OF ACCORD BY EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI DELEGATIONS.

3. AL-THAWRAH QUOTED PLO OFFICIAL WHO STATED THAT CLOSING OF CAIRO VOICE OF PALESTINE UNSURPRISING BECAUSE EGYPT HAD AGREED IN SECRET CLAUSE OF TREATY TO HALT INFORMATION CAMPAIGN AGAINST ISRAEL.

4. AL-THAWRAH REPORTED NOVOSTI ARTICLE WHICH CLAIMED THAT AGREEMENT WILL NOT CURB ARMS RACE BUT INSTEAD APPEARS TO HAVE STIMULATED IT. REASONING BASED ON ISRAELI REQUEST FOR THREE BILLION DOLLAR WEAPONS SUPPLY.

5. PRESS REPORTED WITHOUT COMMENT THAT SADAT WILL VISIT WASHINGTON OCTOBER 26.

6. COLUMNIST IN AL-THAWRAH ASSERTED THAT AGREEMENT HAD "INCREASED COMPLEXITY OF REGIONAL SITUATION BY INTRODUCING NEW ELEMENTS INTO ARAB-ZIONIST CONFLICT, PRINCIPALLY IMMOBILIZATION OF EGYPTIAN FRONT, TERMINATION OF STATE OF BELLIGERENCY, INTRODUCTION OF AMERICAN PRESENCE AND ISRAEL'S RETURN TO PRE-OCTOBER LOGIC THRU AMERICAN WEAPONS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT."

7. SAIQA WEEKLY MAGAZINE "VANGUARDS" IN SEPTEMBER 9 ISSUE PUBLISHED INTERVIEW WITH ZUHAYR MUHSIN SHARPLY CRITICAL OF SINAI AGREEMENT. MUHSIN SAVAGED SADAT FOR GIVING AWAY TOO MUCH: "WHAT HAS SADAT GOVERNMENT GOT IN ITS HAND WITH WHICH TO COMPROMISE AT GENEVA CONFERENCE IF IT IS HELD? WHAT DOES HE HAVE LEFT TO GUARANTEE INTEREST OF NEXT AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION--FOLLOWING 1976 ELECTIONS--IN COMPLETING NEW STEP? WE SAY NEXT ADMINISTRATION BECAUSE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION WILL REST SATISFIED UNTIL AFTER PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN." MUHSIN CLAIMED THAT SADAT HAD NO RECOURSE BUT TO "RATIFY DOCUMENTS OF RECONCILIATION, JUDICIAL RECOGNITION AND EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS." ISRAEL, HE ADDED, HAD NO INCENTIVE TO COMPROMISE IN FUTURE BECAUSE EGYPT WAS NOW EFFECTIVELY UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 DAMASC 03584 161501Z

OUT OF PICTURE.

8. MUHSIN SCOFFED AT SEARCH FOR "SECRET PROTOCOLS" BECAUSE "ANNOUNCED ARTICLES ALONE ARE SUFFICIENT TO FORM COMPLETE AND INTEGRAL POLITICAL AGREEMENT THAT TERMINATES STATE OF BELLIGERENCY UNILATERALLY BY EGYPT." HE CONCLUDED WITH OBSERVATION THAT "THIS IS NOT DISENGAGEMENT OF FORCES

AGREEMENT AND NOT SOLELY MILITARY STEP BUT LONG TIME
ARMISTICE. IT IS COMPLETE POLITICAL DOCUMENT, AGREEMENT OF
SHAME, HUMILIATION AND SURRENDER OF HOMELAND ON PATH OF
COMPLETE CAPITULATION AND ADMISSION OF LEGALITY
OF AGRESSION AND ZIONIST USURPATION OF PALESTINIAN
AND ARAB LAND. IT IS FAR FROM BEING STEP TOWARD PEACE,
BUT IS STEP TOWARD TRAITOROUS, CAPITULATORY PEACE."
MURPHY

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